

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Region III - 6th & Walnut Sts.
Philadelphia, Pa. 19106

ORIGINAL
(Dad)

Re: 1e

114889

SUBJECT: Metal Bank of America - PCB's

DATE: SEP 20 1978

FROM: Michael A. Pelensky *MAP*
Solid Waste Management Program (3AH30)

TO: Gordon M. Rapier
Director, Air and Hazardous Materials
Division (3AH00)

THRU: Robert L. Allen
Chief, Hazardous Materials Branch (3AH30)

A summary of the meeting attended on September 18 by William Schremp and Michael Pelensky of this Division with Enforcement, Legal, Surveillance and Analysis, Water, Toxics, and with Coast Guard, State Department of Environmental Resources (DER), and City representatives is presented for your information.

The Coast Guard, during September 1977, conducted sampling and analysis of an oil seep discharging into the Delaware River from a riverfront property of Metal Bank of America, Inc. This property is located 1.2 miles below Philadelphia Water Department's Torresdale Water Plant intakes. (The site reportedly is being used for scrap material storage.) Analysis by EPA, and subsequently by Roy F. Weston (under Coast Guard contract), indicated presence of PCBs in the oil discharge area, in the soil and contaminating groundwater. Metal Bank had claimed no PCBs based on the Franklin Institute analysis.

It is believed technically feasible to pump out the estimated 21,000 gallons of PCB-contaminated oil which could then be stored until a permitted PCB incineration site becomes available. The contaminated soil technically can be removed and disposed of at a permitted PCB landfill (several thousand drums of soil could be involved). The PCB-contaminated water can be treated using carbon filters to less than 1 ppb PCB, but there is still a question of permitting discharge of the treated water.

Overall, several million dollars is estimated for cleanup and disposal (including interim storage of contaminated oil pending availability of a permitted incineration facility).

DER had initiated action against Metal Bank approximately a year ago to plan to remove the contaminated oil and soil, but there currently is a stay of legal proceedings. The City has also requested that Metal Bank take corrective measures otherwise action would be taken. Early corrective action, if any, is not expected of Metal Bank.

Since the Coast Guard has already funded the Roy F. Weston study, further funding will also be investigated by the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard expects that this can be considered as an oil spill, and cleanup of the oil and contaminated soil can be handled under the Coast Guard revolving fund (assuming availability of sufficient funds). The Coast Guard expects to have an answer on this in about two weeks. EPA therefore will look to the Coast Guard to take action, otherwise EPA may have to go after Metal Bank for cleanup and disposal costs.

No action is required by the Division at this time.

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